



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

1430 N STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814-5901

September 23, 2005

Dear County and District Superintendents:

I want to thank the California students, teachers, principals, administrators, and other school staff who have reached deep into their pockets and opened their hearts to help our fellow Americans displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

I am so proud of California's education community and its spirit of giving and concern for those in need at this time. I have heard from a number of districts that their students want to do more to help.

Here is additional information about how schools can continue to help with the Katrina relief efforts.

STUDENTS IN CALIFORNIA FROM AFFECTED AREAS

To date, districts in California have reported that 517 children displaced by the hurricane have enrolled in school in our state. This total includes: 359 K-12 grade students, 13 preschool age students, and 145 aged birth to preschool. We will continue to provide updates on the number of students in California from the affected areas.

CALIFORNIA KIDS CARE PROGRAM

After Hurricane Katrina hit, I initiated the California Kids Care campaign so students could help with the disaster relief efforts. Many schools around the state wasted no time in initiating California Kids Care fundraising efforts. I am proud to say that the schools have raised nearly \$150,000 so far through the California

Kids Care program. Now, this is just a progress report, and we hope that schools will continue to raise funds to help victims of Katrina and its aftermath.

The California Kids Care collection effort will run through September 30. On Tuesday, October 11, I will announce the total amount of funds raised for this effort. For more information about the California Kids Care campaign, please visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/re/ht/katrina.asp>

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS WHO WANT TO HELP IN THE GULF STATES

We have received many inquiries from teachers and administrators who would like to help out in the Gulf States in their efforts to get students back into classrooms as soon as possible. Below is contact information for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Prospective teachers and administrators should contact these states directly.

- Louisiana Department of Education- customerservice@la.gov. Send an e-mail stating you want to help.
- Mississippi Department of Education- <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/Katrina/> Teachers and administrators can go to this Web site and either look for a school that is requesting help, or you can add your name to a database of people wanting to help. To add your name to the database, look under "How Can I Help" on the home page. Select "Donations and Offers of Assistance," then fill in your information.
- Texas Department of Education- Texasteacher@tea.state.tx.us. Send an e-mail stating you want to help.

DISPLACED TEACHERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA

Teachers from affected areas who are seeking employment as a teacher in California should refer to the California Teacher Credentialing Commission at <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/> for information on a California teaching credential.

Teachers from affected areas in the Gulf States who are interested in information about teaching in California should refer to: [How to Become Credentialed in California](#). For employment information visit www.edjoin.org.

DONATIONS OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES OR PERSONAL ITEMS

We have heard from many individuals, schools, and districts that are interested in

donating books, clothes, or other supplies to schools serving students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. If you are interested in donating, please go to <http://hurricanehelpforschools.gov/index.html>.

The site is easy to navigate and will allow you to indicate the type of supplies you can provide and your contact information. The information will be posted on the national "See What Organizations Can Give" page. On this site you can also view a list of schools in the affected Gulf Coast areas that need supplies. The site provides contact information that will allow you to make arrangements to send supplies directly to a school of your choice.

CHILDCARE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR FAMILIES DISPLACED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

Some families displaced by Hurricane Katrina are arriving in California with critical social service needs including the need for quality childcare and development services. The California Department of Education has identified a source of funding to help meet the needs of these families without displacing services or waiting list priorities for existing low-income families in California. The attached letter describes how local child care and development services contractors should proceed to provide these services for eligible families displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

I will continue to offer updates on Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in coming days. I also will remain in touch with my fellow chief school officers in the affected states. We will remain alert to the impact on schools in Texas as Hurricane Rita bears down on the coast in the Gulf area. As always, if you have additional questions that have not been addressed in this update, please contact us at communications@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

JACK O'CONNELL

JO:hm